

OFFICE FOR SAFE AND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

MISSION: Help make Louisville the safest city in America and promote peace in neighborhoods by activating the collective power of youth, citizens, the community, and our team.

The Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods is dedicated to the successful implementation of a health-based violence reduction system. Cure Violence, Pivot to Peace, Thrive, One Love Louisville, The Ambassador Program, and Youth Implementation Team are vehicles that focus needed resources and opportunities to individuals who need them most. Lasting success depends on increasing partnerships with service providers, continuous data analysis to identify best practices and trends, and an unwavering commitment to creating a city of safe neighborhoods, where everyone is secure, supported, free of violence and prepared for lifelong success.

BY THE NUMBERS

OSHN helped reduce homicides by **30%** as part of a comprehensive violence prevention strategy – from a peak of 117 in 2016 to 79 in 2018 and 12 through 3-15-19

Cure Violence, a public health approach to reducing the risk of violence:

- **212** gunshot victims assisted since its creation
- **200 hours** engaging patients in the University of Louisville Hospital Emergency Room in January 2019, plus hundreds of hours in Russell, Portland and Shawnee neighborhoods engaging individuals and families at risk of being impacted by gun violence.
- Served more than **200 families** in the Portland neighborhood through a food drive

Pivot to Peace has successfully reduced injury recidivism among **95%** of its participants

Through a collaboration with KentuckianaWorks, more than **440 young people** have enrolled in Reimage since 2015, achieving a recidivism rate of less than 5%.

More than **46,000 youth engaged** during the 2018 National Youth Violence Prevention Week with more than 50,000 youth projected to participate in 2019.

287 people trained as One Love Louisville Ambassadors. Nearly **80%** of participants report an increase in skills, knowledge, and increased desire to make change in their community. Approximately **170** people participated in networking nights to connect with other Ambassadors who are making a difference.

OSHN's Community Response Team responded to **330** individuals and families within 48 hours of shootings or homicides taking place since June 2018, connecting them to grief, trauma, and mental health resources.

- More than **1,500** contacts have been made with individuals and families in the Russell and Shawnee neighborhoods. With more than **50** referrals made for employment, housing, and other wrap around supports.

Awarded **\$5 million**, five-year federal grant to launch the **Trauma Resilient Cities Initiative** to promote resilience and equity for Louisville families and young people most affected by trauma, inequity and violence.

Providing:

- Resources for **400** children and families in west and south Louisville
- Training for **200** mental health providers and **200** first responders
- Support to **50** community organizations

Our partners:

Center for Women and Families	Louisville Urban League
Metro United Way	Restorative Justice Louisville
Spalding School of Social Work	Kent School of Social Work
Peace Education	Heine Brothers Coffee
YMCA of Greater Louisville	YouthBuild Louisville
Youth Violence Prevention Research Center	Boys and Girls Club
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Jefferson County Public Schools

VIOLENCE INTERRUPTION THEORY AND PRACTICE

The Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods (OSHN) received funding and support to expand community and hospital-based violence interruption at four sites within the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, and ending June 30, 2019. We are working to utilize “Cure Violence,” which is a proven, public health model for reducing violence that operates under a key assumption: violence is a learned behavior and can be prevented by using disease control methods. The Cure Violence Model champions core components essential to disrupt the transmission of violence: Detect and Interrupt Potential Violent Conflicts; Treat Those at the Highest Risk for Involvement in Violence; Group and Community Norm Change; and Data and Monitoring.

Detect and Interrupt Potential Violent Conflicts. OSHN and its partners train credible messengers who are employed to detect and interrupt potentially violent events. The messengers identify situations where violence is likely to happen such as a release of a key individual from jail/prison, interpersonal conflicts, and territory disputes. The messengers engage shooting victims, their families, and friends who might retaliate and spread violence. In addition, the messengers mediate conflicts peacefully by using highly specialized training.

Treat Those at Highest Risk for Involvement in Violence. Based upon established criteria, trained and credible messengers identify individuals who are most likely to be involved in violent confrontations. The individuals are identified through personal connections and knowledge gained from being immersed in the community. The messengers assist high-risk individuals with any number of challenges using the existing social service infrastructure and helping people resolve challenges related to education, employment, criminal justice, mental health, alcohol, drugs, trauma, reentry, life skills and more.

Group and Community Norm Change. OSHN and community partners organize group sessions with community members and neighborhood leaders to make collective decisions about a community response to violence. The group sessions are neighborhood based and typically include violence prevention staff, the highest risk individuals, their friends and family, residents, business owners, and other appropriate persons. This team spreads messages that discourage the use of violence through public education materials which include door-to-door canvassing and the sharing of materials through clergy, schools, and others. Staff host responses to shootings where community members publicly come together and reject violence as well as host community events to shift social norms around violent activities.

Data and Monitoring. Community and hospital-based staff and the Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods analyze data and identify changes in violence patterns and levels. The progress of each partner is measured; governmental partners and others analyze changes in violence in focus and comparison areas. A feedback loop is being established to ensure that ground level tactics change in response to using the data.

SITE STRATEGY

To ensure continuous improvement during implementation, OSHN supported nineteen (19) training activities to increase capacity within the community-based organizations. These activities included but were not limited to conflict resolution, grantee training, implicit bias, stop the bleed, expungement clinics, etc. Physical site
Louisville Metro Government, 3/18/19

locations were also provided for groups that lacked a space to provide services such as No More Red Dots or the YMCA in the Western part of Russell.

	Where/Neighborhood	Why	Partner	Site Lead	Total Staff
Site 1	Russell Neighborhood	Russell has the highest rates of shootings and homicides	YMCA	Andrea Goins	9
Site 2	Shawnee	Shawnee has the second highest rate of homicides and shootings	No More Red Dots	Dr. Eddie Woods / Norman Martin	11
Site 3	Portland	Portland is in the 1 st Police Division which has the highest numbers of shootings and homicides	No More Red Dots	Dr. Eddie Woods	11
Site 4	Hospital-Based	The highest rate of people coming in with gunshot wounds and stabbings as well as the only trauma center in Louisville.	UofL Hospital / Peace Education	Annabelle Pike / Eileen Blanton, Deborah Barnes - Byers	13

PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTCOMES – SCALING THE WORK BEYOND METRO GOVERNMENT

The pilot year has yielded several successes including:

- Formal partnership with JCPS to create a new role of Mental Health Practitioner to support Cure Violence implementation.
- Increased cross-functional partnerships with LMPD to identify methods to improve communication and increase data sharing.
- Increased staff professional development to continue towards high fidelity to the program model.

OSHN is also focused on increased cross-functional collaboration and is working with community and hospital-based partners on upcoming projects like:

- National Youth Violence Prevention Week
- The creation of Faith-Based community roundtables
- Greater collaboration with KYCC for employment opportunities
- Site-based GED and tutoring support
- Site-based mental health and trauma support for individuals and families
- Increased focus area canvassing and needs assessments to fill resource gaps

ACTIVITY AND OUTPUTS

Since grant execution, with support from OSHN, sites have increased program activity. Currently, data collection and analysis are underway to identify trends and best practices. The primary areas for review include but are not limited to:

Date Range	# of Shooting / Stabbing Victims Recorded	# of Individual Contacts Made	# of High-Risk Individuals Identified	# of Community Events and Canvasses	# of Contacts via Community Events and Canvasses	# of Referrals Made	# of individuals and families supported following a shooting or homicide

9/2018-2/2019	212	318	255	40	548	208	381
---------------	-----	-----	-----	----	-----	-----	-----

Community Events. Planned activities that engage neighborhood residents within the focus area are classified as community events. Neighborhood Canvasses are utilized, for example, to share information concerning resources at the program site. Food Drives, another activity captured above, addresses families who are food insecure. Trainings such as Stop the Bleed, provide community members skillsets needed to address a violent injury that may save someone’s life. Contacts made at these events are utilized to build stronger relationships that lead to referrals in areas of employment, education, mental health, etc.

PIVOT TO PEACE

Hospital-Based Violence Interruption program that provides services to individuals being treated in the emergency room for gun shot injuries. This is a partnership between OSHN, UofL Hospital, and Peace Education and has been in operation for over 2 years now. This program connects gun shot victims to case managers, and peer support specialists who aide in the process of healing, obtaining employment, and achieving educational goals. Individuals who have been treated for a gun shot injury are at a high risk of returning to the hospital with future gun related injuries. **Pivot to Peace has successfully reduced injury recidivism in 95% of its 88 participants.**

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM

The Community Response Team responds to incidents of shootings and homicides in neighborhoods within 48 hours of the event taking place. This team works to distribute resources related to mental health, grief and loss, and other trauma related needs that may be present. OSHN partners with community serving agencies such as Family and Children’s Place, Centerstone, the Cardinal Success Program, and the Collective Care Center at Spalding University. **Approximately 330 individuals and families have been engaged since June 2018.**

TRAUMA RESILIENT CITIES INITIATIVE

Recognizing the success and promise of OSHN’s work, **OSHN has been awarded a \$5 million, five-year federal grant** to launch an initiative to promote resilience and equity for Louisville families and young people most affected by trauma, inequity and violence.

The Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods will manage the Trauma Resilient Community Initiative, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in partnership with U of L’s Kent School of Social Work and Centerstone Kentucky. The initiative will use a community-based approach to build a “trauma-informed” system of care and services to children and families exposed to violence. The effort is meant to increase the knowledge and skills of people who respond to, make referrals and provide services to youth and families affected by violence, trauma and racial inequity. **The partners aim to provide trauma treatment to 400 children and their families in west and south Louisville, where data shows that youth and families are disproportionately affected by trauma, violence and systematic inequities. The initiative also involves training 200 clinicians in trauma interventions, and 200 first responders,** volunteers and community service providers in a special first-aid approach to youth mental health.

THRIVE FELLOWSHIP

Recognizing OSHN’s work, the Kenan Charitable Trust funded \$1.2 million for the **THRIVE Fellowship, a community leadership/civic engagement initiative offered to men between the ages of 22 and 26** with misdemeanor convictions resulting from current or previous involvement with the criminal justice system. The Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods is leading the program in cooperation with partners such as New Legacy, HEAT Time, the Louisville Urban League, and 15,000 Degrees. Training topics include civic Louisville Metro Government, 3/18/19

engagement, leadership development, case management, and workforce training. Fellows follow a 32-hour schedule, Monday through Friday, and receive a stipend to cover housing, food, clothing, daily living expenses, and education/training expenses.